

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously presented) Apparatus for retaining a filter cloth on a frame member, said apparatus comprising

an edge strip member for connection to a filter cloth edge region, the edge strip member having an elongate body extending therealong,

a complementary part on said frame member configured and arranged to engage said elongate body, and

pressure exerting means for pressing said elongate body into engagement with said complementary part, whereby the pressure exerting means is separate from the elongate body,

wherein said edge strip member is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of: flexible rubber, synthetic rubber, and plastic with rubber-like properties, and

wherein said edge strip member receives said filter cloth edge region between two flaps and is secured between said flaps by a method selected from the group consisting of: stitching, welding, adhering, and extruding onto said edge strip member.

2. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the edge strip member receives the edge of the filter cloth between two flaps and is secured between the flaps by stitching, welding or adhesive, or by extrusion onto the edge strip.

3. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 2 characterised in that the elongate body is formed integrally with the flaps and comprises a generally rectangular crosssectional bead having a groove formed towards the filter cloth which is shaped and dimensioned to fit with a projection

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directed away from the filter cloth, and formed on the frame member and comprising said complementary part.

4. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the pressure exerting means is adapted to act as a wedging member inserted with the elongate body within a channel formed in the frame member to push the body into engagement under pressure with one or both opposite sides of the channel.

5. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the pressure exerting means is removably mounted to provide a channel wall opposite to the complementary part.

6. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 5 characterised in that the pressure exerting means comprises a resilient strip connected by a rib or series of press studs to the frame member.

7. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the pressure exerting means is formed from the same material as said edge strip member.

8. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim [[7]] 1 wherein the pressure exerting means is of a different hardness to the edge strip.

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9. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 4 characterised in that the pressure exerting means comprises a tapering wedge sectioned strip which can be inserted in a tapered slot in the elongate body, the wedge sectioned strip being expansible or of larger dimensions than the slot so that the elongate body is forced against the opposite side walls of a channel in the frame member.

10. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the strip and the slot are formed to provide a keyhole cross-section, presenting a head part separated from the main tapered body of the strip by a constriction.

11. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the elongate body is formed as a bead having an elliptical cross-section, which can be rotated between a first position where the minor axis is presented to enter into the orifice of a channel in a frame member, and a second position wherein the major axis is presented to the orifice, causing the bead to engage with abutment surfaces to resist drawing out of the bead from the orifice, and the pressure exerting means comprises a flat rigid core member of metal or rigid plastics within the body of the bead and extending there along and lying on the major axis of the bead.

12. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that a frame member, between two adjacent filter screens, comprises a wide channel in which is received edge strips provided on the edge of two oppositely directed filter cloths, each with a respective elongated body there along, said bodies being received in the channel back-to-back, each with a groove hooked over an inwardly directed lip of the channel, and secured in place by a common resilient wedging strip between them.

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13. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 12 characterised in that the common wedging strip has a groove on its inner side which engages with a rib or a series of ball like studs on the floor of the channel to spread the wedging strip outwards to exert pressure on the elongated bodies.

14. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 13 characterised in that the wedging strip is provided with a plurality of spaced tabs or a rib on the exposed face of the strip to enable the wedging strip to be removed for changing the filter cloths.

15. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 characterised in that the elongate body is formed as a bead on the edge of a rubber edge strip, and is secured in position by a spring member engaging with the bead and a channel formed in a frame.

16. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the spring member is at least partially embedded in the bead.

17. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the spring member is fully embedded in the bead.

18. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the spring member engages in a groove formed in the bead.

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19. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the groove is filled with a packing of a coarse foam material.

20. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the rubber edge strip is a composite comprising rubbers of different hardnesses, having a softer rubber between the edge of the filter cloth and the filter apparatus, and a harder rubber on the exposed side of the edge strip.

21. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein either the surface of the bead or of the contacting surface within the channel is roughened to improve frictional contact.

22. (withdrawn) Apparatus according to Claim 18 wherein the composite construction of the edge strip extends into the bead part of the edge strip.